

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 22, 24 and 34 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended). A protein variant having reduced immunogenicity as compared with its wild-type protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of the protein variant differs from the amino acid sequence of the parent wild-type protein with respect to at least one epitope area of the parent wild-type protein, such that the immunogenicity of the protein variant is below 75% of the immunogenicity of the parent wild-type protein.

Claim 23 (Original). The protein variant of claim 22, wherein the epitope areas correspond to epitope patterns that correspond to reactive peptide sequences reactive to antibodies raised against the wild-type protein.

Claim 24 (Currently amended). The protein variant of claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein the epitope pattern is an IgE epitope pattern.

Claim 25 (Original). The protein variant of claim 22, wherein an anchor amino acid of the epitope is substituted or deleted.

Claim 26 (Original). The protein variant of claim 22, wherein the immunogenicity is below 50% of the immunogenicity of the parent wild-type protein.

Claim 27 (Original). The protein variant of claim 22, wherein the epitope areas are defined on the wild-type protein structure by being localized less than 5 Angstroms from any of the following epitope patterns: R Y P R/K, S G P R A G, P R/K S D P G, D P > R D T G, A R > R > A > N, N N > E L, R/K R F A/S N > E/D, E Y > M, P > P A P > S, A K I D P R/K, A D S > G Y P, S R S A, L > G R S S.

Claim 28 (Original). A composition comprising a protein variant of claim 22.

Claim 29 (Original). A DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding a protein variant of claim 22.

Claim 30 (Original). An expression vector comprising a DNA construct of claim 29.

Claim 31 (Original). A host cell which is capable of expressing a polypeptide and comprises a DNA construct of claim 29.

Claim 32 (Original). A host cell which is capable of expressing a polypeptide and comprises an expression vector of claim 30.

Claim 33 (Original). The host cell of claim 31, which is a fungal cell, an insect cell, a mammalian cell, or a plant cell.

Claim 34 (Currently amended). A method of producing a protein variant having reduced immunogenicity as compared with the parent protein, comprising:

culturing a host according to claim 31 in a suitable culture medium to obtain expression and secretion of the protein variant into the medium, followed by
isolation of the protein variant from the culture medium.